

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated April 7, 2004, the Examiner rejects claims 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application No. 0674262 (Carlson et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,632,881 (Graham). Claims 2-7 and 10-12 are allowed.

By the present response, Applicants have canceled claims 13-18. Claims 2-7 and 10-12 remain pending in the present application.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 13-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlson et al. in view of Graham. Applicants have cancelled these claims, therefore, rendering these rejections moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2-7 and 10-12 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 2-7 and 10-12 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

U.S. Application No. 09/654,089

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.39008X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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